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Pause and Ponder —“Watch Your Step”

“Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 2 Tim. 2:19

Intelligence System Improved.

During the recent series of touchy world events, President Kennedy has taken several steps to improve U.S. intelligence operations.

Over the weekend it was announced that a “special operations” center had been set up on a 24-hour basis to sift intelligence data and make certain that the president's orders are carried out.

Earlier the president had named Maxwell Taylor, former Army chief of staff, to make a study of paramilitary operations which include intelligence and guerrilla-type activities. He had also appointed James R. Killian, former science adviser in the Eisenhower administration, to head a reactivated intelligence review board.

Since last summer there has been growing criticism of the Central Intelligence Agency in important international events which appears will not be stilled short of obvious improvement in intelligence capabilities. More important, however, is the necessity to prevent further mistakes in the perilous events ahead.

Through the years, the CIA has been able to cloak its efficiency from all eyes but those of the President. Congress does not know how much of the executive branch budget is allocated to the CIA, or what the agency spends it for. There is no accounting of funds or activities except to the President.

Secrecy is a paramount requisite of the operation of any intelligence system, but it does not permit evaluation of the success or failure of the overall intelligence program. Within the year, three glaring failures directly attributable to the CIA have made serious dents in American prestige.

These were the U-2 plane fiasco, the tragedy of Cuba—which appears to have been consistently misinterpreted by the CIA, from the revolution of two years ago to the disastrous counter-revolution invasion—and the embarrassing complaints from Paris that CIA officials were in constant communication with the Algerian rebels during the brief threat to De Gaulle's rule.

Intelligence is one of the more important tactics of free world maneuvers to keep the cancer of communism from spreading beyond its present borders. Bad judgment predicated on poor information has produced extreme embarrassments which could evolve into, cold war defeats if not quickly corrected.

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